

truth and who hate a little honest work more than they hate the evil one, and who have no objection to biasing a small job but are too lazy for the work of honest baptism.

Herein lies the fundamental clerical opposition to honest christian Gospel baptism, I have no doubt.

It is enough to kindle a righteous indignation to read the account of the shallow pretense of this artificial dodger towards the poor confiding illiterate Chinaman, an ununiformed, untaught, heathen man who trusted this professional posing reverend in sheep's clothing. How does this pretender compare with Phillip the evangelist? The Chinaman took him into his carriage, "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water" and the Chinaman said, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" And the Chinaman commanded the carriage to stand still: and the Chinaman went down into the water all by himself, and alone, and the Chinaman baptized himself by dipping himself under the water while upon his knees, while the pretender stood on shore saying the "words." In the Eunuch's case "they both went down into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch and Phillip baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Phillip and the eunuch saw him no more, for he went on his way rejoicing."

Bad luck for the Chinaman for he had to haul the starchy professional back in his carriage to Jamaica.

"Allee Samee," Mr Professional, the chances are that the Chinaman is more nearly "allee light" than you are in the great hereafter, when some one else will say the "words" and you will do the other thing.

In the meantime I wish to say that Amen Jung Kin Chun is very much the best and most sensible man of the two.

Respectfully
P. H. BEAVER.

No one can ask honestly or hopefully to be delivered from temptation unless he has himself honestly and firmly determined to do the best he can to keep out of it.—*Ruskin*.

DIFFICULT PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURES.

Are the scriptures mysteries or are they only simple truths? They contain many allegories and declarations too simple for an imaginary far seeing advocate of mistification to fix the focus of his eye near enough to himself or herself to see the simplicity of truths contained therein. Such will always look afar off for something very mysterious. The farther one looks, the more mysterious or indefinite the object becomes. The mistake lies in the fact that the meaning is over looked. A school boy lost his book and returned back to the school house to find it, and also called on the families along the road to see if they peradventure found it, but that evening when he took his vest off his book slipped out of his bosom where he had stuck it. We often do not look near enough at home, and therefore a thing becomes mysterious in our minds: preachers too are very liable to make these mistakes. There are samples found in the Bible of this kind, and one of them reads as follows: 2 Samuel xii, 1, 2.

And the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, "there were two men in one city; the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: but the poor man had nothing save the little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his own bosom and was unto him as a daughter.

And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him, but took the poor man's lamb and dressed it for the man that was come unto him." It seems that David was a man something after our own nature in our age of the world; he was looking far away, and surely thought that there was some great mystery about this wicked man. The only mystery that was in this saying was because he did not look near enough at home, and therefore did not understand the saying. Had he taken off his vest perhaps this mysterious book might have slipped out

of his bosom of its own accord; when a thing is once known it is no more a mystery. Had not the Prophet said "Thou art the man" this little lamb story would have remained as great a mystery to this day as the story of the prodigal Son. There are great mysteries in the "Kingdom of Heaven." Matt. xiii, 11. "It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven." The scriptures are given unto us that we may know the mysteries of the Kingdom. When the way is known it is no more a mystery. Isaiah xxxv, 8. "And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Man cannot set up the excuse that he does not know the way. In this day of the printing press, and distribution of free Bibles, the pretext that of ignorance of the scriptures, is one of the things that God has winked at.

DANIEL MILLER.

BROKEN PLANS.

Man has his plans, and God has his plans. Man plans ignorantly, God plans wisely. Man plans concerning an unknown future, God plans with omniscient foresight. Man may have determination, but God has power.

Man's plans may be disarranged, God's purposes have omnipotence behind them. Man's life is but a span, and then "his breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth, in that very day his thoughts perish." But God lives and plans for eternal ages, and has eternity in which to carry out his plans. It is easy for a man to say, "I will," or "I will not;" but God can easily break that "will," or reverse that "will not." Man may plan his course in utter independence, caring nothing for counsel or reproof, but it is easy for the Highest to interfere and interrupt, and baffle mortal plans, and teach us, in poverty, in sorrow, in sickness, in suffering, and in helplessness, that our plans must yield to the divine purpose, and we must learn to submit to God, and be still.

How long will it take us to learn this lesson? How long will we beat against the bounds which God has set, and struggle to carry out plans which are not in accordance with his will? Will we ever learn God's will? Will broken plans, broken fortunes, broken health, and broken hearts, ever teach us to fear the Lord, confide in God, and to wait in patience the openings of his providence?